

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the instant application, of which claims 1-35 were previously presented and claims 36-41 are new claims. Claims 1, 4-5, 8-9, 14, 17-18, 26 and 33 have been amended to further clarify the language used in the claims and to further prosecution of the application. The Applicant submits that the claims 1-41 define patentable subject matter in view of the following remarks and arguments.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data center, comprising:
 - a first tier comprising a first server;
 - a second tier coupled to the first tier, the second tier comprising a second server; and
 - a third tier coupled to the second tier, the third tier comprising a third server,
 - wherein at least one or more of the first server, the second server and/or the third server handles a plurality of different traffic types concurrently over a single fabric using a single connector.
2. (Original) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the first server handles at least network traffic and direct attached storage (DAS) traffic over the single fabric.

3. (Original) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the first server uses a single controller for handling at least network traffic and DAS traffic.

4. (Currently Amended) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the second server handles at least two of network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, and cluster traffic over the single fabric.

5. (Currently Amended) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the second server uses a single controller for handling at least two of network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, and cluster traffic.

6. (Original) The data center according to claim 5, wherein storage traffic comprises traffic from a redundant-array-of-independent-disks (RAID) configuration or traffic from storage devices accessible via a network.

7. (Original) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the second tier comprises an application tier.

8. (Currently Amended) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the third server handles at least two of network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, and cluster traffic over the single fabric.

9. (Currently Amended) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the third server uses a single controller for handling at least two of network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic, and cluster traffic.

10. (Original) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the single fabric is based upon a layer 2 (L2) protocol.

11. (Original) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the single fabric is based upon an Ethernet.

12. (Original) The data center according to claim 1, wherein the single fabric is based upon a transport/network protocol.

13. (Original) The data center according to claim 12, wherein the transport/network protocol comprises a transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP).

14. (Currently Amended) The data center according to claim 1, wherein at least one or more of the first server, the second server and/or the third server uses an Internet small computer system interface (iSCSI) protocol in communicating with storage.

15. (Original) The data center according to claim 14, wherein the iSCSI protocol runs on top of TCP/IP.

16. (Original) The data center according to claim 14, wherein the iSCSI protocol runs on top of remote direct memory access protocol (RDMAP).

17. (Currently Amended) The data center according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one or more~~ of the first server, the second server ~~and/or~~ the third server uses an RDMAP for interprocess communication.

18. (Currently Amended) A server, comprising:
~~an integrated chip; and~~
~~an a single~~ Ethernet connector coupled to the integrated chip, wherein the Ethernet connector and the integrated chip can concurrently handle a plurality of different types of traffic.

19. (Original) The server according to claim 18, wherein the server comprises a blade server, and wherein the integrated chip is part of a blade mounted in the blade server.

20. (Original) The server according to claim 18, wherein the server has a single Internet protocol (IP) address.

21. (Original) The server according to claim 18, wherein the server is part of a data center.

22. (Original) The server according to claim 18, wherein the Ethernet connector handles the plurality of different types of traffic over a single fabric.

23. (Original) The server according to claim 18, wherein the Ethernet connector comprises a single Ethernet connector.

24. (Original) The server according to claim 18, wherein the integrated chip comprises a single integrated chip.

25. (Original) The server according to claim 18, wherein the plurality of different types of traffic comprises at least two of network traffic, storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic and cluster traffic.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~communicating with a server communication, the method comprising:~~

~~(a) using a single fabric for a plurality of different types of traffic; and~~

~~(b) routing a handling the plurality of different types of traffic for a server via a single fabric comprising a single layer 2 (L2) connector; and concurrently handling the plurality of different types of traffic for the server via the single L2 connector.~~

27. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein the single fabric comprises an Ethernet-based fabric.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein the single fabric comprises a transport protocol/network protocol-based fabric.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein (b) comprises accessing a storage device via the single L2 connector.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein (b) comprises accessing a cluster via the single L2 connector.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein (b) comprises accessing a network via the single L2 connector.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein (b) comprises handling the plurality of different types of traffic via an Ethernet connector of the server.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~communicating in a data center~~ communication, the method comprising:

(a) in a data center, accessing a storage system over a single fabric, wherein said single fabric comprises a single layer 2 (L2) connector that is enabled to concurrently handle a plurality of different types of traffic; and

(b) accessing one or more of a cluster and a network over [[the]] said single fabric; and

(c) accessing a network over the single fabric.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 33, wherein (a), (b) and (c) are performed over a single Ethernet connector of a server in the data center.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 33, wherein the single Ethernet connector has a single Internet protocol (IP) address.

36. (New) A system for communication, the system comprising:
an integrated circuit that enables concurrent processing of a
plurality of different types of traffic that are received via a single layer 2
(L2) connector that is communicatively coupled to said integrated circuit.

37. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein said integrated
circuit is an integrated chip that comprises a layer 2 network interface card
(L2 NIC), a transmission control protocol (TCP) processor, an iSCSI
processor and a remote direct memory access (RDMA) processor.

38. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein said plurality of
different types of network traffic comprises at least two of a network traffic,
storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic and cluster traffic.

39. (New) A method for communication, the method comprising:
concurrently handling via an integrated circuit, a plurality of different
types of traffic that are received via a single layer 2 (L2) connector that is
communicatively coupled to said integrated circuit.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said integrated
circuit is an integrated chip that comprises a layer 2 network interface card
(L2 NIC), a transmission control protocol (TCP) processor, an iSCSI
processor and a remote direct memory access (RDMA) processor.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said plurality of
different types of network traffic comprises at least two of a network traffic,
storage traffic, interprocess communication (IPC) traffic and cluster traffic.